

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

In re application of      JAN-OVE PERSSON  
Improvements in          VOICE PROSTHESIS  
Serial No.                  NOT YET ASSIGNED  
Filed                        CONCURRENTLY HEREWITH  
Examiner                    (To be assigned)

Date    OCTOBER 28, 1998

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The following citation of Patent Art and/or other information is being submitted to comply with the duty of disclosure under Rule 1.56. It is hereby requested that the Examiner consider the following art and/or other information in detail:

Reference:

5,314,470

Discussion:

A voice prosthesis is adapted to be inserted into a fistula between an esophagus and a trachea of a user. This prosthesis includes a cylindrical middle piece defining a passageway therethrough which has a groove therein and which has first and second end portions. First and second external flanges extend from respective first and second end portions of the middle piece. The middle piece and the flanges are all made of flexible material. A ring made of a material which is stiff in relation to the flexible material of the middle piece and the flanges is inserted into the groove in the passageway of the middle piece for stiffening of the middle piece. A valve is provided which includes a seat formed in the passageway of the middle piece and a flap extending across the passageway and carried by the middle piece for resting on the

seat to close the passageway and is adapted to be moved off the seat to open the passageway.

WO 93/11820

A shut-off valve member (1) is capable of shutting off the valve in response to an egressive air thrust. It is proposed to provide the valve with a blow-off valve member (2) of a design such that said valve can open in response to an overpressure in the trachea which exceeds a given value. This blow-off valve member limits the maximum achievable overpressure behind the valve. Coughing is possible without prior operation of the valve and leakage due to excessive overpressure in the trachea is prevented. The valve may contain a tissue connector and a housing to be connected thereto.

Copy of the above cited art is enclosed herewith.

It is not intended that the above cited art be construed as the best art available, and it is urged that the Examiner conduct a full, complete and independent search and evaluation of all available art.

Applicant and/or his attorney or agent may have been exposed to other art related to the general area of the subject application. If such exposure has in fact occurred, applicant and/or his agent may not have made a detailed analysis of such other art and/or its relation to the present invention. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner not rely upon the above citation for any evaluation of the subject application and include all available art within the scope of his independent search.

Respectfully submitted,

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## LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT

Jan-Ove Persson

FILING DATE

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GROUP

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## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER<br>INITIAL |    | DOCUMENT NUMBER |   |   |   |   |   |   | DATE    | NAME    | CLASS | SUB-<br>CLASS | FILING DATE<br>IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|----------------------|----|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------|---------|-------|---------------|----------------------------------|
|                      | AA | 5               | 3 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 0 | 5/24/94 | Persson |       |               |                                  |
|                      | AB |                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |         |         |       |               |                                  |
|                      | AC |                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |         |         |       |               |                                  |
|                      | AD |                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |         |         |       |               |                                  |
|                      | AE |                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |         |         |       |               |                                  |
|                      | AF |                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |         |         |       |               |                                  |
|                      | AG |                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |         |         |       |               |                                  |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

|  |    | DOCUMENT NUMBER |   |   |   |   |   |   | DATE    | COUNTRY     | CLASS | SUB-<br>CLASS | TRANSLATION |    |
|--|----|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------|-------------|-------|---------------|-------------|----|
|  |    |                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |         |             |       |               | YES         | NO |
|  | AL | 9               | 3 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 6/24/93 | Netherlands |       |               |             |    |
|  | AM |                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |         |             |       |               |             |    |
|  | AN |                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |         |             |       |               |             |    |
|  | AO |                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |         |             |       |               |             |    |
|  | AP |                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |         |             |       |               |             |    |

## OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.